

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully considered the matters raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action but remains of the position that patentable subject matter is present. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's position based on the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

Due to recent developments in digitized imaging, it has become possible to make hard copies of recorded image information on floppy disks, CD or the like. As a result of this development, many image forming means are connected to a computer system in a photofinishing laboratory. The present invention is directed to an image recording system having a first location (a photofinishing laboratory) for both a first controller and an image recording device and a second location for both a second controller and a memory. The present invention is also directed to a method for transmitting image information and priority order information from the memory to the image recording device using the first and second controllers.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 9, 15 and 23 to more particularly define the above aspects of the present invention.

Claims 1 and 9 now recite that the image recording device and the first controller are provided in the first location, and that the memory and the second controller are provided in the second location. Claims 1 and 9 also now recite that the first and second controllers are connected through a communication network. Claim 1 also more clearly recites how image information stored in the memory is recorded in the image recording device, while claim 9 more clearly recites how priority order information stored in the memory is recorded in the image recording device. Support for these amendments can be found in claims 2-3 and 10 and Figure 1. Claims 2-3 and 10 have accordingly been cancelled.

Claims 15 and 23 now recite that the first controller is provided in the first location, and that the memory and the second controller are provided in the second location. Claims 15 and 23 also now recite that the first and second controllers are connected through a communication network. Claim 23 also now recites that the image recording device

is provided in the first location and is controlled by the first controller. Support for these amendments can be found in claims 16-17 and 24 and Figure 1. Claims 16-17 and 24 have accordingly been cancelled.

Claims 1-8 and 15-22 had been rejected as being anticipated by Satoh. Claims 9-14 and 23-28 had been rejected as being unpatentable over Satoh in view of Ota. Satoh had been cited to reject the majority of the claim limitations while Ota had been cited only to reject the priority order information means.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner had stated that camera 30B of Satoh performs the same function as the claimed image recording device of the present invention, while camera 30A performs the same function as the claimed memory of the present invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Satoh teaches the communication of image data between video or television cameras (column 1, lines 1-57 and Figure 1 of Satoh). In other words, the camera that captures the image sends the image to the other camera. In contrast, and as recited in independent claims 1, 9, 15 and

23, the first controller provided in the first location sends a reading command signal to the second controller provided in the second location. The reading command signal instructs the second controller to read the image information (or priority order information) stored in the memory. The read information is then transmitted back from the second controller to the first controller and the first controller utilizes the read information to cause the image recording device to record. Satoh does not have one camera sending read commands to the other camera to retrieve stored data in the other camera.

Claims 1 and 15 employ 4 "steps", steps A-D, while claims 9 and 23 employ 5 "steps", steps E-I. As explained at page 21 of the Application, step A is when reading command signals are sent from the first control means to the second control means; step B is when the second control means reads image information from the memory; step C is when the second control means sends the read image information to the first control means; and step D is when the first control means operates the image forming means using the read image information. Steps E-I are explained at page 22 of the Application. Steps E-I relate to the

reading of priority order information and substantially mirror steps A-D.

Satoh does not employ steps A-D as recited in claims 1 and 15 or steps E-I as recited in claims 9 and 23.

The operation of Satoh is described at column 12, line 31 to column 13, line 48 and in Figures 7-8. Satoh operates by transmitting image data from an image transmitting camera to an image receiving camera. Initially, the image transmitting camera captures an image using the LCD of its camera (col. 12, lines 61-67). Next, the image transmitting camera sends the image data to the image receiving camera via a modem (col. 12, lines 39-40). Finally, the image receiving camera receives and stores the captured image in a memory card (col. 12, lines 49-54 and col. 13, lines 1-10).

Satoh therefore differs from claims 1 and 15 for a number of reasons. First, Satoh sends image information toward a memory where it is to be recorded. In contrast, the present invention reads image information from a memory where it has already been recorded.

For the above reasons, Applicant therefore submits that claims 1, 9, 15 and 23 are not taught in Satoh or Ota when viewed alone or in combination.

The Examiner had objected to claim 23 due to a lack of antecedent basis for "the first controller" and "the second controller". Applicant has accordingly amended the word "the" to read "a" before the first appearance of "the first controller" and "the second controller" in claim 23.

Applicant has also amended dependent claims 20-22 and 26-28 to correct an obvious typographical error. These claims were drawn to an image recording "system", however, they were all ultimately dependent upon an independent method claim. Claims 20-22 and 26-28 now correctly recite an image recording method.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any extensions of time or fees be necessary in order to maintain this

Application in pending condition, appropriate requests
are hereby made and authorization is given to debit Account
02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

MUSERLIAN, LUCAS AND MERCANTI, LLP

By: Donald C. Lucas
Donald C. Lucas
(Attorney for Applicants)
475 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016
Tel. # 212) 661-8000

DCL/mr

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